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FOR NEA/ARPI; NSC FOR RAMCHAND; LONDON FOR TSOU; PARIS FOR ZEYA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [KU](#)

SUBJECT: REGIONAL LEADERS AND THROGS OF KUWAITI CITIZENS
ATTEND FUNERAL OF KUWAITI AMIR SHAYKH JABER

REF: A. KUWAIT 96

[1](#)B. KUWAIT 93

[1](#)1. Tens of thousands of Kuwaiti men and women, including Cabinet ministers and Members of Parliament, attended the 3:30 PM (local) funeral of Amir Shaykh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who was buried at Kuwait's main cemetery in Sulaibikhat, approximately 25 miles west of Kuwait City. The funeral procession and interment of the late Amir, wrapped in a simple shroud, was broadcast live on Kuwait's 4 stations, as well as several satellite stations including Al-Jazeera and Al-Arabiya. Embassies who attended the funeral, reported the generally stoic crowd also included a smattering of Kuwait's large expatriate community. Security forces were present, but did not prevent mourners from approaching the grave or extending condolences to senior family members.

[1](#)2. Several leaders arrived in Kuwait in time to attend the funeral services and offer condolences to the Al-Sabah family on Sunday afternoon. Among them were Algerian President Bouteflika; Egyptian President Mubarak; Jordanian King Abdullah II; Sudanese President Omar Hasan Al-Bashir; Qatari Crown Prince Shaykh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani; Omani Deputy Prime Minister for Cabinet Affairs Shaykh Sayyid Fahd Bin Mahmoud Al-Said; Bahraini King Hamad Bin Issa Al Khalifa and Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa; UAE President Shaykh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan and other officials; Arab League Secretary General Amr Moussa; and Iraqi President Jalal Talabani and SCIRI leader Abdul Aziz Hakim.

[1](#)3. Upon the early morning announcement of the Amir's demise, Kuwaiti citizens gathered outside his Dasman Palace residence in downtown Kuwait. Kuwaiti mourners have also been circulating SMS messages reading, "Our great beloved passed away. Passed away the prince of hearts, passed away the dear father." Attendees at the funeral carried posters of the late Amir and some had his picture pinned to their dishdashas.

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LeBaron